

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Budnick Converting Inc.

Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center

Space Optimization Solution Preps Budnick Converting, Inc. for Expansion

Client Profile:

Budnick Converting, Inc., sources large master rolls of adhesive material which they slit, die-cut, laser, water jet cut, spool and prepare for a variety of uses in the transportation, electronics, appliance and healthcare sectors. The company employs 60 people at its facility in Columbia, Illinois.

Situation:

Budnick was in the planning stages for a new production facility but needed to fulfill growing demand by optimizing the configuration of its current space. "We had an opportunity to bring in new equipment technology that could significantly increase output," said Brad Albrecht, VP of Finance for Budnick Converting. "but we obviously didn't want to add-on to a building we were planning to eventually vacate. We needed to better use the space we're in and extend the life of the building." Budnick engaged the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center to provide the solution.

Solution:

IMEC provided baseline continuous improvement training for key plant personnel. In-put gathering sessions were held with Budnick's senior managers and shop floor operators to solicit ideas on the best approaches for optimizing the flow of the facility. Documentation of process and product flow uncovered significant amounts of material and pallets on the production floor. Further, a baseline plant drawing revealed that the spooling machines, which aren't used on a daily basis, could be relocated. IMEC then recommended that Budnick put up additional racking in the production side of the plant to free up floor space and keep material closer to the operators. This helped not only from an efficiency of material and safety perspective, but created the necessary room for the new automated Rewind Slitter machine.

Results:

- * Increased output by 45 percent.
- * Increased efficiency by 10 percent.
- * Delayed \$3 million capital infrastructure improvement.

Testimonial:

"We see the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center as a one-stop-shop for help in improving efficiency. We know their capabilities and trust their recommendations."

Brad Albrecht, VP, Finance